

Three IFC members resign spots

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

Already one member short, the Incidental Fee Committee started the school year with a personnel crisis as three members announced their resignation at Monday night's meeting.

All three — acting Chairwoman Esther Wong and committee members Julia Wallace and Tonija Edwards — cited financial problems. Edwards also cited possible problems with her daughter's health.

Also at Monday night's meeting, the committee voted committee member Jian Liu in as chairman. Committee member Joey Lyons was voted in as vice chairman.

The three said they want to train the new members before leaving their positions to reduce disruption to the committee.

"I know what can happen if we don't have a cohesive unit," said Edwards, later adding that "what we can do to leave more respectfully is by training new people, making a more consistent transition."

The committee decided to contact ASUO President Eric Bowen in the next few days to

discuss adding the new requests for members to the IFC search committee. The resigning members said they had not talked to Bowen before the meeting. According to IFC bylaws, the ASUO president appoints new members.

Acting Chairwoman Esther Wong said the University's high tuition is forcing her out.

Wong said paying out-of-state tuition and losing money in the currency exchange from her home country of Singapore is forcing her to graduate early.

Wong is currently taking 21 credits to meet that goal. She plans to leave in February, she said, with the beginning of the winter term marking her last day in office.

Wallace said entering graduate school brought extra tuition charges that are too much for her IFC stipend to pay. Committee members earn about \$100 a month.

Wallace unofficially gave Oct. 1 as her last day in office.

The committee hopes to replace the current vacant position and Wallace's position first, then look for replacements for Edwards and Wong.

CENSORSHIP

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1973 Supreme Court case *Miller vs. California*.

The work must be "patently offensive," and must, taken as a whole, appeal to the "prurient interest" in sex, and its contents must be utterly without redeeming social value. The problem with such legal definitions is their subjectivity, Heins said.

Unlike the term "obscenity," pornography does not have a legal meaning, but is the subject of censorship efforts by both the political right and left, she said.

Heins said attempts by groups like the Meese Commission to control material on the shelves of adult entertainment stores have been strengthened by political and intellectual arguments and intellectual stature of people like University of Michigan law Professor Katherine McKinnon, an anti-porn, left-wing feminist.

While Heins defined pornography as adult videos or literature that's designed for sexual arousal, the McKinnon definition classifies pornography as sexual material that is degrading to women or has a message of degradation.

It is unfortunate, Heins said, that McKinnon and her followers have persuaded the mass media that their agenda represents feminism, because such an ideological definition of pornography stereotypes and limits what society sees as a proper female sexual response.

Sex, Sin and Blasphemy argues that despite claims made by McKinnon's followers, who have influenced the Canadian government to adopt their definition of pornography, there is no credible evidence that pornography causes men to commit rape or any other sexual crime.

It would be disastrous, Heins said, to censor material on the basis that it may cause certain behaviors, regardless of whether the material was pornography or children's television programming.

"For anybody to think that the problems of crime and violence in society are going to be resolved by censoring television programs, they have got to be living in la-la land," Heins said.

Political efforts to censor cartoons because they may cause violent behavior is just a distraction from the more expensive or controversial solutions like education, gun control or drug therapy, she said.

Heins, who also has a private law practice, said racism is implicated in attacks on rap music because of cultural conventions in black music that are not fully understood by censors.

Censors fail to understand violent imagery that sometimes occurs in African-American music and literature, even though it also appears in entertainment for whites, she said. Her example was the vehement protests to Body Count's song, "Cop Killer," even though there is "lots of cop-killing in Clint Eastwood movies," she said.

Censorship is essentially thought control, Heins said, no matter who the censors are. The OCA, in attempts to suppress literature, is attempting thought control just as anti-OCA protesters who would try to ban the organization from participating in the Eugene Celebration parade are, she said.

However, when the OCA tries to censor materials that portray homosexuals in a positive light in order to reduce rejection of homosexuality, "that's not only control of thoughts, it's control of behavior," she said.

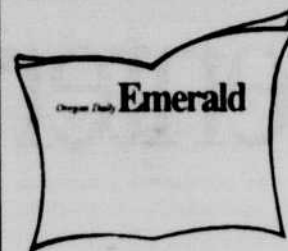
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